**Fun unlimited at the Sensory Park**

The city corporation unveiled its first ever sensory park which caters to children with different kinds of disabilities. Located on the 4th Trust Link Road in Santhome, the park is both colourful and exciting as it helps these kids navigate the space and stimulates their sensory experience as they play.

62 members from the Down Syndrome Federation of India – Parents, Staff, Persons with Down syndrome and siblings all had a fun time at the park on Sunday – 3rd of February 2019 as they went out on a picnic to the park.

A vibrant and kid friendly space with lots of play equipment, the park promises pure entertainment for all kids. Tactile art walls with bright primary colours welcome you inside. The interactive wall helps children feel the painting as they are embossed with tyres, bangles, shells and other material. The idea is to take art beyond eyesight for the sake of kids are visual impaired, either partial or total, and to improve sensory perceptions for others.

Sand, pebbles, wood, fibre and concrete have been used to built stepping stones and infinity walkways for kids. There are sand banks and swings which can accommodate wheelchairs, and ground level merry-go-rounds for visually impaired, autistic and wheelchair bound kids that are fitted on to a soft playground made of fibre. The fibre ground ensures that no one gets hurt even if they fall.

For auditory stimulation, there is a singing stone which will vibrate if you wet your hand with water and rub on it. Other toys which make music when there is a breeze or when you move them have also been installed. These help with.

The park also has solar panels to power its lamps and a beautiful herbal garden with lemongrass, tulsi, basil and other indigenous herbs which will create fresh air for the children. Importantly, modified toilets with handrails and slopes too are being built inside the park.

Snacks, social interaction and fun – the DSFI family enjoyed every minute at the park as they moved around confidently and comfortably. The park was more like home than any other park they had visited.

More such parks are being planned by the corporation to bring about an inclusive environment for the children with special needs.